

Pedro J.(PJ) Torres

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology, expected May 2015
University of Georgia. Odum School of Ecology, Athens, GA. USA

B.Sc., Environmental Sciences, May 2007
University of Puerto Rico. Environmental Sciences Program, San Juan, PR. USA

INTERESTS

Aquatic and ecosystem ecology; drivers and regulators of ecosystem processes; linkages of terrestrial and aquatic food webs; anthropogenic alterations and land-use effects on ecosystem function; undergraduate research and education

PUBLICATIONS

Torres P.J. and A. Ramirez. 2014. Land use effects on leaf litter breakdown in low-order streams draining a rapidly developing tropical watershed in Puerto Rico. *Revista de Biología Tropical* 62: 129-142

Small, G.E., J.H. Duff, P.J. Torres, and C.M. Pringle. 2013. Insect emergence as a nitrogen flux in Neotropical streams: comparisons with microbial denitrification across a stream phosphorus gradient. *Freshwater Science* 32(4): 1178-1187.

Small, G.E., P.J. Torres, L.M. Schweizer, J.H. Duff, and C.M. Pringle. 2013. Importance of terrestrial arthropods and subsidies in lowland neotropical rain forest stream ecosystems. *Biotropica* 45(1): 80-87.*

**Winner of the 2014 Biotropica Award for Excellence in Tropical Biology and Conservation*

PUBLICATIONS (in preparation)

Torres P.J. and C.M. Pringle. Landscape-scale extirpation of native macroconsumers assemblages results in reduced breakdown rates of leaf litter breakdown in tropical headwater streams, Puerto Rico. Target Journal: *Freshwater Biology*

Torres P.J., C. Colon-Gaud, A. Shaikh, and C.M. Pringle. Contrasting seasonal variation of stream nutrient cycling and metabolism under different community compositions following extirpation of native macroconsumers. Target Journal: *Freshwater Science*

Torres P.J., O. Perez-Reyes, A.S. Mehring, E.A. Greathouse, K.L. Smith, A.P. Covich, T.A. Crowl, W.H. McDowell, A. Ramirez, and C.M. Pringle. Biotic and abiotic controls of benthic parameters at the reach scale: Long-term comparison of two tropical headwater streams. Target Journal: *Ecosystems*

INVITED SEMINARS	August 2014	Ecosystem-level effects of the distribution and extirpation of freshwater shrimps in Puerto Rican stream. Environmental Science Department. University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR.
PRESENTATIONS: National Meetings	May 2014	Torres, P. J. , J.C. Chappell, and C.M. Pringle. Caribbean island streams among the biggest losers in the climate change game: Lessons from Puerto Rico. Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR.(oral)
	August 2013	Torres, P.J. , and C.M. Pringle. Evidence for an ecosystem state change at the landscape scale: Loss of top-down control of stream macroconsumers over decades significantly alters stream ecosystem processes across the island of Puerto Rico. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.(oral)
	May 2013	Torres, P.J. , O. Perez-Reyes, A.S. Mehring, E.A. Greathouse, K.L. Smith, A.P. Covich, T.A. Crowl, W.H. McDowell, A. Ramirez, and C.M. Pringle. 2013. Top-down control of macroconsumers determines reach-scale variability in patterns of algal food resources: A long-term study in two tropical headwater streams, Puerto Rico. Annual Meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science, Jacksonville, FL.(oral)
	May 2012	Torres P.J. and C.M. Pringle. Native macroconsumer extirpations alter nutrient dynamics in tropical headwater streams, Puerto Rico. 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science, Louisville, KY.(oral)
	May 2011	Macias N.A., C. Colon-Gaud, A. Ramirez, and P.J. Torres . Potential direct and indirect effects of omnivorous shrimps on mayfly naiads in tropical streams: A laboratory study. Annual Meeting of the North American Benthological Society, Providence, RI.(poster)
	June 2010	Torres, P.J. , and C.M. Pringle. Landscape-scale effects of dams on ecosystem processes: Native faunal extirpations decrease rates of leaf litter breakdown in highland streams of Puerto Rico. Joint Summer Meeting North American Benthological Society and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Santa Fe, NM.(oral)
	June 2010	Negrón-Miranda A., C. Shea, P.J. Torres , C. Colon-Gaud, and A. Ramirez. Macroconsumer effects on stream benthos and organic matter processing in a tropical headwater stream: Are shrimps more active at night? Joint Summer Meeting North American Benthological Society and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Santa Fe, NM.(poster)
PRESENTATIONS: University Meetings	January 2012	Torres P.J. and C.M. Pringle. Damming effects on nutrient dynamics in tropical headwater streams. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. (oral)
	January 2010	Torres P.J. and C.M. Pringle. Indirect effects of dams on ecosystem processes: Shrimp extirpations alter leaf litter breakdown in neotropical streams, Puerto Rico. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student

Symposium, Athens, GA. (oral)

January 2008 **Torres P.J.** and C.M. Pringle. Linking community structure to ecosystem processes: Effects of native faunal extirpation and invasive species in neotropical island streams, Puerto Rico. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. (oral)

April 2007 **Torres P.J.** and A. Ramirez. Land use effects on stream ecosystem function: organic matter processing. XXVI Caribbean Flora and Fauna Symposium. University of Puerto Rico at Humacao, Humacao, PR. (poster)

**PRESENTATIONS:
Research Stations and
Research Programs**

July 2014 **Torres P.J.** Biotic and abiotic controls of algae, and consumer extirpation effects on ecosystem processes in tropical headwater streams. REU Seminar Series. El Verde Field Station, Rio Grande, PR. (oral)

July 2011 **Torres P.J.** Indirect effects of dams on stream ecosystems: Native macroconsumer extirpations in neotropical island streams, Puerto Rico REU Seminar Series. El Verde Field Station, Rio Grande, PR. (oral)

July 2009 **Torres P.J.** Integrating ecosystems and human needs: Dammed Puerto Rico. REU Seminar Series. El Verde Field Station, Rio Grande, PR. (oral)

August 2006 **Torres P.J.**, G.E. Small, and C.M. Pringle. Arthropods as a linkage between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems: Does stream phosphorus concentration matter? OTS Research Experience for Undergraduate Symposium. La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica. (oral).

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

2008-present **Graduate Research**
Advisor: Catherine M. Pringle, Ph.D
Research Subjects: (A) *Effects of large dams on ecosystem processes in tropical headwater streams.* (B) *Long-term effects of biotic and abiotic factors on stream benthic resources.*
Odum School of Ecology. University of Georgia

2006-2007 **Undergraduate Research**
Advisor: Alonso Ramirez, Ph.D
Research Subject: *Land-use effects on stream ecosystem processes.*
Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies. University of Puerto Rico

2006 **Research Experience for Undergraduates Program**
Mentor: Gaston E. Small
Research Subject: *Aquatic-terrestrial energy subsidies in small streams across a landscape Phosphorus gradient*
La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica

**RESEARCH
COLLABORATIONS**

2013-present Research Subject: Stream metabolism dynamics in a degraded urban stream
Collaborator: Checo Colón-Gaud, Ph.D
Department of Biology
Georgia Southern University

	2007	Research Subject: Terrestrial-aquatic nutrient subsidies in small tropical streams Collaborators: Gaston E. Small and Catherine M. Pringle, Ph.D La Selva Biological Station
PAST GRANTS	2013	University of Georgia Graduate School Travel Award (\$300)
	2010	Odum School of Ecology Small Grants Program (\$700)
	2007	Tinker Foundation Travel Award. Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute. University of Georgia (\$1200)
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	2007-2014	Graduate Laboratory Assistant <i>Ecology</i> (2007, 2008, 2013, 2014) <i>Ecological Basis of Environmental Issues</i> (2010, 2011) Odum School of Ecology. University of Georgia
	2005-2007	Undergraduate Tutor <i>Ecology</i> Department of Biology. University of Puerto Rico
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORING	2014	Mentor Limarie Reyes. University of Puerto Rico at Ponce Research Project: The Role of <i>Phylloicus pulchrus</i> (Trichoptera: Calamoceratidae) in the decomposition of leaf litter: evaluating leaf species and case building effects Research Experience for Undergraduates Program at El Verde Field Station
	2014	Teaching Assistant Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (8 students) Department of Environmental Sciences and El Verde Field Station Univeristy of Puerto Rico
	2013	Teaching Assistant Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (7 students) Department of Environmental Sciences and El Verde Field Station Univeristy of Puerto Rico
	2011	Mentor Stephen Strella. University of Vermont Research Project: Exploring the effects of hurricane disturbance on ecosystem processes in tropical headwater streams
	2010	Mentor Emmanuel Fernandez, University of Florida Research Project: Effects of native and non-native stream macroconsumers on aquatic insect growth

	2009	Mentor Caitlin Shea, University of Vermont Research Project: Effects of Macroconsumers on Leaf Litter Decomposition in a Tropical Headwater Stream: Are Shrimps More Active at Night?
OTHER UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING	2014	Mentor INSTARS program of the Society for Freshwater Science. (16 students) Joint Aquatic Sciences. Portland, OR
	2013	Mentor INSTARS program of the Society for Freshwater Science. (15 students) Annual meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science. Jacksonville, FL
	2013	Volunteer Mentor INSTARS program of the Society for Freshwater Science. (12 students) Annual meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science. Louisville, KY
MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER		Freshwater Science (1), Revista de Biología Tropical (1), Actualidades Biológicas (1)
OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS	2010-present	Society for Freshwater Science (formerly North American Benthological Society)
	2013-present	Ecological Society of America
	2007	Student Representative. Search Committee for Director of Environmental Sciences Department. University of Puerto Rico.
	2004-2007	Staff Member. Eco-Environmental Society
	2004-2006	Department Representative. General Student Council. University of Puerto Rico.
LANGUAGES		English, Spanish